From: David (038) Laura Totten

To: Microsoft ATR

Date: 1/23/02 1:10pm

Subject: Microsoft settlement

Most, if not all, countries want to have companies like Microsoft. Some countries even work with their industries to develop dominate industry positions. It is bewildering to me that our government, via lobbyist money, is trying to interfere with business. This interference can only lead to higher prices to the consumer, while our legal system and other governments bleed money and resources away from business (Microsoft). In effect, our government is harming its own citizens and country while trying to \hat{a} ? spin \hat{a} ? this action as protection. Protection from what - better value, better pricing and better competition? It is a mystery to me why the federal appeals court did not throw out the whole case Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson was involved in. This judge was prejudice against Microsoft before the case began. According to our legal system Microsoft can not even give away its product to the needy or to the schools. Who is the judicial system trying to help, the citizens or special interests? I do not believe Microsoft is harming US consumers. I do not believe business should not be run by lobbyists in the government. Allowing competing companies to, in effect, lobby the judicial system to gain advantage can only hurt consumers and our economy.

The problem is some other companies did not, and do not, compete as well as Microsoft. Microsoft is only dominate in its operating system and office software. It appears that competitors to Microsoft want an unfair advantage so they donâ??t have to be as competitive. This harms a free economy.

CC: Daryl Totten